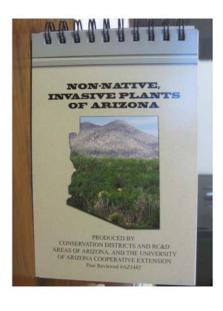
Buffelgrass goes up in flames in controlled burn in southeast Tucson



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Arizona Daily Star photo. The caption said this was a 2-acre burn near Kolb and Irvington, and that researchers from the UA would be studying effects of fire on buffelgrass.

Meanwhile, the booklet below, published 2009 in part by the UA Cooperative Extension, says buffelgrass reestablishes and expands its range quickly after fire.





Scientific Name: Pennisetum ciliare (L.)
Family: Poaceae (Grass)
Description: Buffelgrass is a perennial
warm-season bunch grass with rhizomes and
sometimes stolons. It is a very robust grass that
may grow over 3 feet tall and wide. Bristly
flower heads range from 1½ to 5 inches long
and can be purple, gray, or yellowish, turning
a distinctive golden-brown color when dry.
Spikes are crowded with dense bristly fruit
which are actually burs without hardened spines.
Although buffelgrass is a perennial,
it is an extremely prolific seed producer.
Inflorescences may emerge whenever soil
moisture is available. New plants produce seed
in as little as six weeks. Older plants branch
profusely and densely at nodes, giving mature
plants a "messy" appearance.
Origin: Africa, Asia, the Middle East.
Distribution/Comments: Buffelgrass is
extremely drought tolerant and recytablishes and
expands its mage quickly after fire. Seeds are
fire spreading in southern Arizona.

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